

REMARKS

This Amendment and Reply seeks to place this application in condition for allowance. In an Office Action dated July 6, 2005 (the "Office Action"), the Examiner issued a restriction requirement designating two groups, namely Group I, including claims 1-8 and Group II, including claims 9-22.

Applicants hereby elect Group II, claims 9-22, without traverse.

The non-elected claims (i.e., claims 1-8) have been canceled, without prejudice. Accordingly, those claims have been withdrawn from consideration in this application at this time. Applicants reserve the right to present the same or similar inventive subject matter in this application, at a later date, or in a divisional application.

Notably, certain of the claims have been amended to correct inadvertent typographical errors, to improve antecedent basis and to more fully protect the invention. No new matter has been added.

Finally, eight (8) new claims have been added to more fully protect the inventions described and illustrated in the application. These new claims are entirely consistent with Group II. As such, Applicants' new claims do not adversely impact the election made herein. Moreover, these claims are fully supported by the specification. No new matter has been added.

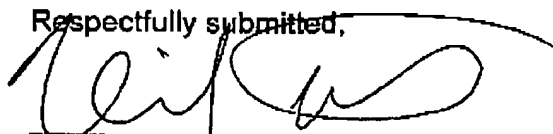
CONCLUSION

Applicants respectfully request entry of the foregoing amendments and consideration of the claimed invention on the merits. Applicants submit that all of the pending claims present patentable subject matter. Accordingly, allowance of all of the claims is respectfully requested.

It is noted that should a telephone interview expedite the prosecution of this application in any way, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Date: August 2, 2005

Respectfully submitted,



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